

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00  
DLOS-09 OES-07 INT-05 /072 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

USDAO CARACAS

SECDEF

CMDT COGARD

CNO

SEC TRANSPORTATION

COGARD ONSOD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116537

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TD, US

SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REFS: (A) STATE 263608, 1976

(B) PORT OF SPAIN 2864, 1976

(C) PORT OF SPAIN 937

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1. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST GOT CONCURRENCE TO AN EXTENSION OF OPERATING RIGHTS FOR THE OMEGA NAVIGATION STATION AND ITS COMPANION MONITOR SITE ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES ENUMERATED IN PARA 2. PRESENTATION OF THIS REQUEST SHOULD BE IN LOW-KEY FASHION AS PER PARA 4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REPORT GOT REACTIONS, EVENTUAL COUNTER-PROPOSALS OR OTHER ISSUES AS THEY ARISE FOR WASHINGTON

CONSIDERATION. AUTHORITY TO EXCHANGE NOTES, IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED, WILL BE PROVIDED AFTER EVENTUAL AD REFERENDUM TEXT IS APPROVED.

2. ELEMENTS OF U.S. POSITION ARE:

- (A) EXTENSION OF OMEGA STATION OPERATION DESIRED THROUGH CY 1980.
- (B) CONCLUSION OF TOTALLY NEW AGREEMENT DISASSOCIATED FROM THE WEST INDIES DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT.
- (C) US COOPERATING AGENCY TO BE THE COAST GUARD.
- (D) TRINIDADIAN PARTICIPATION IN STATION/SYSTEM OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT.
- (E) OPERATING COSTS (AT CURRENT LEVELS) TO BE PAID BY USG.
- (F) LAND TO BE PROVIDED COST-FREE BY GOT.
- (G) NO DIRECT MONETARY QUID.

3. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE FROM REFTELS THAT AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT ANY QUID IS NOT EXACTLY WHAT THE GOT HAD IN MIND. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS UNDERLYING THE NO-DIRECT QUID POSITION; A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE (THE US HAS NEVER PAID COMPENSATION FOR THE RIGHT TO OPERATE OMEGA AT ANY OF THE EIGHT STATIONS WORLDWIDE; IT HAS ONLY PAID COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION

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AND, OCCASIONALLY, OPERATING EXPENSES), AND ONE OF FACT - EVEN IF A QUID WERE CONSIDERED FEASIBLE, THE ANTICIPATED TEMPORARY NATURE OF THIS STATION WOULD MAKE THE AMOUNT SO SMALL AS TO BE INSIGNIFICANT TO THE GOT IN ANY CASE. MOREOVER, THERE ARE SOME MORE INTANGIBLE BENEFITS WHICH WOULD ACCRUE TO THE GOT UNDER AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT (SEE PARAS 5 AND 6).

4. DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER THE "AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION" IS RELATED TO THE WORST CASE PROSPECT OF A SIMULTANEOUS PUBLIC DEBATE OVER OMEGA IN BOTH COUNTRIES, A SITUATION WHICH COULD PERMIT OPPOSITION GROUPS TO FUEL ONE ANOTHER'S CAMPAIGNS. WE WISH THEREFORE TO AVOID, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, MAKING OUR REQUEST FOR CONTINUED OMEGA OPERATION A PUBLIC ISSUE. FOR THIS REASON, DEPARTMENT FORESEES A LOW-KEY PRESENTATION BY THE EMBASSY TO THE MFA OF OUR PROPOSAL AND OF THE PROPOSED TEXT FOR AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES (TO BE FORWARDED SEPTEL), ACCCOMPANIED BY A REQUEST THAT THE GOT STUDY THE MATTER AND REPLY AS EXPEDITIOUSLY

AS POSSIBLE, AND CERTAINLY PRIOR TO JULY 1, WHEN  
PREPARATIONS FOR THE ORDERLY PHASE-OUT OF THE STATION  
MUST COMMENCE UNLESS AGREEMENT FOR AN EXTENSION HAS BEEN  
REACHED OR IS IN SIGHT. THE EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE,  
OF COURSE, THAT IT IS PREPARED AT ANY TIME TO MEET WITH  
APPROPRIATE GOTT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE US REQUEST,  
BUT SHOULD AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT THESE MEETINGS WERE  
IN ANY SENSE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS.

5. IN MAKING THIS PRESENTATION, THE EMBASSY SHOULD  
UNDERScore THE FOLLOWING REAL BENEFITS DERIVED FROM  
CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE OMEGA STATION AND ITS COMPANION  
MONITOR SITE UNDER AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT:

(A) STATION OPERATION RESULTS IN A POTENTIAL INPUT TO GOTT  
ECONOMY OF APPROXIMATELY 210,000 ANNUALLY; 105,000 IN  
SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TO PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT  
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EMPLOYEES, AND A SIMILAR AMOUNT FOR LOCALLY HIRED  
EMPLOYEES AND FOR OTHER SERVICES.

(B) UNDER JOINT ADMINISTRATION, SOME PART OF THE 105,000  
COULD BE PAID TO PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED NATIONALS OF  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. THE USG COULD CONTEMPLATE THE  
HIRING OF A QUALIFIED TRINIDADIAN AS ASSISTANT STATION  
MANAGER OR A MAXIMUM OF TWO TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED PERSONS  
TO PERFORM WATCH STANDER FUNCTIONS.

(C) THE USG COULD PROVIDE, SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE LAWS AND  
REGULATIONS, SOME ON THE JOB ELECTRONICS TRAINING TO  
THESE ASSIGNED LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

(D) UNDER JOINT ADMINISTRATION, THE AMOUNT OF LAND  
NECESSARY FOR OPERATIONS COULD BE REDUCED TO APPROXIMATE-  
LY 300 ACRES; THUS 500-600 ACRES WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY  
RETURNABLE.

(E) USG COULD DECLARE ITS INTENTION TO TURN OVER TO THE  
GOTT, SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE US LAWS AND REGULATIONS, ALL  
OMEGA PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, EXCLUDING ONLY CESIUM  
CLOCKS AND TEST EQUIPMENT AS REQUIRED, AT THE TERMINATION  
OF THE EXTENSION PERIOD. ORIGINAL COST OF THE STATION  
WAS CLOSE TO 5 MILLION; ESTIMATED CURRENT VALUE,  
EXCLUDING LAND, IS APPROXIMATELY 14 MILLION, ALTHOUGH  
SALVAGE VALUE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS; PRINCIPALLY  
THE VALUE OF THE PERMANENT BUILDINGS, 5.6 MILLION, AND  
OF THE 2000 KVA POWER SUBSTATION, VALUED AT 80-100,000.

(FYI: UNDER ARTICLE IV OF THE WEST INDIES DEFENSE

AREAS AGREEMENT ALL "PERMANENT" INSTALLATIONS OR BUILDINGS  
REVERT TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT UPON TERMINATION OF THE  
AGREEMENT OR DEFENSE AREAS; MOVABLE PROPERTY, HOWEVER  
CAN BE REMOVED FREE OF ANY RESTRICTION WHILE THE AREA  
IS A DEFENSE AREA OR WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME AFTER  
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TERMINATION. IT IS THE REMOVABLE, USG-OWNED  
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT THAT THE USG ANTICIPATES BEING ABLE  
TO TRANSFER TO THE GOTT UPON TERMINATION. WHILE CURRENT  
VALUE ESTIMATES ARE 2.5 - 3.0 MILLION, THE SALVAGE  
VALUE WOULD BE MUCH LESS. AS THIS IS LOW-POWERED,  
PROTOTYPE EQUIPMENT, UNSUITED FOR OTHER THAN OMEGA  
APPLICATIONS, DOD ANTICIPATES THAT NO FURTHER REQUIREMENT  
FOR THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE IDENTIFIED DURING THE NECESSARY  
UTILIZATION SCREENING PROCESS AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY, THE  
PROPERTY WILL BE DECLARED "FOREIGN EXCESS PROPERTY"  
PURSUANT TO 10 USC 512 (FEDERAL PROPERTY ACT). THIS  
PROCEDURE MUST BE COMPLETED, HOWEVER, PRIOR TO TRANSFER  
OF OWNERSHIP TO THE GOTT. END FYI.

6. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOTT, EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO  
POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING INTANGIBLE BENEFITS:

(A) PARTICIPATION BY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN STATION/SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS WOULD PERMIT GOTT REPRESENTATIVES  
TO ATTEND IF DESIRED ANNUAL OMEGA CONFERENCES AT WHICH  
INTERNATIONAL OMEGA POLICY IS CONSIDERED (THE NEXT  
CONFERENCE IS IN JAPAN IN OCTOBER), AND TO BE KEPT  
INFORMED OF MAJOR DECISIONS OR CHANGES IN POLICY.

(B) OMEGA IS NOW AN INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING. MANY  
NATIONS ARE OR SOON WILL BE INVOLVED IN A DIRECT SUPPORT  
EFFORT FOR OMEGA, PRIMARILY IN THE MONITOR PROGRAM. SOME  
30 COUNTRIES WILL EVENTUALLY PARTICIPATE IN PROVIDING  
AN ACCURATE, RELIABLE SIGNAL FOR ALL USERS. FAILURE OF  
GOTT TO AGREE TO CONTINUED OPERATIONS WOULD BE A  
DISAPPOINTMENT TO OTHER NATIONS WHICH RELY ON OMEGA.  
CONVERSELY, GOTT CONCURRENCE TO CONTINUED OPERATIONS  
WOULD WIN GOTT CONSIDERABLE CREDIT AMONG ICAO, IMCO  
PARTICIPANTS.

(C) AMONG OMEGA BENEFITS ARE:  
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- MORE ACCURATE NAVIGATION RESULTING IN REDUCED POLLUTION  
BY AVOIDING GROUNDINGS AND COLLISIONS.

- INCREASED ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO SHIPS, FISHING FLEETS  
THROUGH MORE ACCURATE NAVIGATION.

- UNIVERSALITY OF USE AS THE ONLY RADIO-NAVIGATION SYSTEM  
PROVIDING A CONTINUOUS WORLDWIDE SIGNAL.

- SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER AVIATION, MARINE SAFETY.

(D) OMEGA IS PRIMARILY A CIVILIAN SYSTEM WITH SIGNIFICANTLY  
MORE CIVIL USERS THAN MILITARY. CURRENT MARKET PROFILES  
INDICATE UP TO 8000 COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE USERS OF OMEGA-  
MARINE AND AVIATION COMPARED TO LESS THAN 2000 MILITARY  
PLATFORMS. BY 1980, THE NUMBER OF CIVIL USERS IS EXPECTED  
TO DOUBLE ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE. CIVIL USERS INCLUDE OIL

TANKERS, BOTH U.S. AND FOREIGN, FREIGHTERS, PASSENGER  
LINERS, FISHING FLEETS, RECREATIONAL BOATS, SCIENTIFIC  
VESSELS, OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS, U.S. AND FOREIGN AIR  
CARRIERS, PRIVATE AND EXECUTIVE AIRCRAFT. OVER 20  
DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ARE KNOWN TO HAVE PURCHASED OMEGA  
RECEIVERS FOR CIVIL USE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MARR, PFOR, TD, US  
**To:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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